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- I. AUTHORITY: *Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1798 and 1797.185; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100166 Accreditation to Practice.*
- II. APPLICATION: This policy describes the process for an emergency medical technician – paramedic (EMT-P) to attain and maintain accreditation to practice in Orange County.
- III. DEFINITIONS:  
  
“**Local Accreditation**” means accreditation by the Orange County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS) Agency to practice EMT-P skills within Orange County. Such authorization indicates that the EMT-P has been oriented to the OCEMS System, is knowledgeable of the OCEMS scope of practice and treatment guidelines, and practices within the intent of the policies and treatment guidelines approved by the OCEMS Agency medical director.  
  
“**Orange County Orientation Program**” means an OCEMS Agency approved program for providing orientation to the OCEMS System.
- IV. APPLICATION CRITERIA:  
  
A. In order to be eligible for accreditation to practice in Orange County, an individual must possess a valid and current California EMT-P license:  
  
B. Within a thirty (30) day period, an individual must:  
  
1. Complete the OCEMS Agency accreditation application. Complete a statement that the individual is not precluded from accreditation to practice as an EMT-P for reasons defined in Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.  
  
2. Successfully complete a maximum 8-hour orientation program (not including testing) of the OCEMS System as prescribed by the OCEMS Agency, including:  
  - An orientation to the OCEMS communication system conducted by OCSD/Communications.
  - A review, conducted by an OCEMS Agency approved prehospital care coordinator and/or approved ALS service coordinator, which includes:
    - OCEMS Agency Treatment Guidelines
    - OCEMS Agency Policies and Procedures
    - OCEMS Agency EMT-P Scope of Practice

*Italicized Text Identifies Quotation From An Authority Outside The Orange County EMSA Agency.*

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## ACCREDITATION TO PRACTICE EMT-PARAMEDIC

- An additional training and testing program in local optional skills and procedures, developed and administered by the OCEMS Agency approved paramedic training program. This training/testing program is additional to the maximum 8-hour orientation program.

**Note:** A state licensed EMT-P may practice as a second paramedic in Orange County within the limitations of the state basic scope of practice for a period of up to thirty (30) days while awaiting issuance of local accreditation. Performance of any OCEMS Agency optional skills and procedures by the accreditation applicant will be done in the presence of an approved field preceptor assigned by the OCEMS Agency, the OCEMS Agency approved paramedic training program, and/or an Orange County prehospital care coordinator.

3. If required by the OCEMS medical director, provide documentation of successful completion of field evaluation of no more than 10 ALS responses supervised by the OCEMS Agency approved paramedic training program approved field preceptor, and/or an Orange County prehospital care coordinator.
4. Furnish written proof of sponsorship by an *OCEMS approved service provider agency* or written proof of employment as an instructor in the OCEMS Agency approved paramedic training program (Title 22, 100166).
5. Accreditation to practice shall be continuous as long as licensure is maintained and the paramedic continues to meet the local requirements for updates in local policy, procedure, protocol, and local optional scope of practice, and continues to meet requirements of the systemwide CQI program.

### V. INACTIVE STATUS:

- A. An EMT-P who graduates from the OCEMS Agency approved paramedic training program but fails to practice in Orange County as an EMT-P for a period of six (6) months or more, is considered INACTIVE.
- B. An EMT-P who has not had sufficient patient contact experience to maintain proficient skill levels or who is not current in skills review requirements, is considered INACTIVE.
- C. An EMT-P who becomes INACTIVE for less than one (1) year who wishes to ACTIVATE his/her accreditation status may do so, within one (1) year of being classified INACTIVE, by completing a review conducted by an OCEMS Agency approved prehospital care coordinator and/or fire paramedic coordinator which includes:
  - OCEMS Agency Treatment Guidelines
  - OCEMS Agency Policies and Procedures
  - All missed OCEMS approved mandatory in-services for the inactive period

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- ET skills review

- D. If the period of INACTIVE status exceeds one (1) year, the EMT-P is required to:
1. Submit a copy of their valid California EMT-P license card to the OCEMS Agency.
  2. Successfully complete a field evaluation of no more than ten (10) ALS responses, supervised by the OCEMS Agency approved paramedic training program approved field preceptor and/or a prehospital care coordinator.
  3. Complete a review, conducted by an OCEMS Agency approved prehospital care coordinator and/or approved ALS service coordinator which includes:
    - OCEMS Agency Treatment Guidelines
    - OCEMS Agency Policies and Procedures
    - OCEMS Agency EMT-P Scope of Practice
    - ET skills review
    - Current mandatory in-services as identified by the OCEMS Agency

VI. MAINTAINING  
ACCREDITATION:

In order to maintain local accreditation to practice, a licensed EMT-P shall:

- A. Complete one ET skills review session per year. This requirement may be waived if the EMT-P completed three (3) successful adult endotracheal intubations during the previous year (January–December).

**Note:** The base hospital physician may require an ET skills review for any paramedic at any time if deemed necessary (e.g., uncorrected esophageal intubation or dislodgment).

- B. Successfully complete all OCEMS Agency approved mandatory in-services.
- C. Demonstrate scope of practice performance acceptable to the OCEMS Agency medical director.
- D. Submit a copy of their valid California EMT-P license card to the OCEMS Agency within thirty (30) days of receipt from the Authority.

**Note:** State EMS Authority EMT-P continuing education requirements include no less than forty-eight (48) contact hours every two (2) years from an approved CE provider.

- Only courses, classes, or experiences that are directly or indirectly related to patient care and are structured with learning objectives



**ACCREDITATION TO PRACTICE EMT-PARAMEDIC**

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and an evaluation component are allowed for credit toward license renewal.

- A paramedic shall maintain CE certificates issued by a CE provider for four (4) years.

VII. PROVIDER  
AGENCY  
RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. The provider agency shall be responsible for assuring that its accredited EMT-P employee has sufficient patient contact experience to maintain skills to safely provide prehospital emergency medical care.
- B. The provider agency shall assure that each ACTIVE EMT-P employee is current in any OCEMS Agency skills training and mandatory in-service requirements.
- C. The provider agency must report to the OCEMS Agency an EMT-P who, because of extended illness or other extenuating circumstances, has not had sufficient patient contact experience to maintain proficient skill levels, or an EMT-P who is not current in skill review requirements and who therefore is declared INACTIVE.
- D. The provider agency must submit written proof of sponsorship and verification of the EMT-P's successful completion of all skills training and mandatory in-service requirements when an inactive EMT-P reactivates.

VIII. EMS AGENCY  
RESPONSIBILITIES:

The OCEMS Agency shall notify an EMT-P applying for accreditation, and his/her sponsoring provider agency, of the decision regarding accreditation within thirty (30) days of receipt of all documentation required to process the application.

IX. DENIAL/SUS-  
PENSION/WITH-  
DRAWAL OF  
ACCREDITATION:

- A. Denial and/or suspension/withdrawal of accreditation.  
  
Shall adhere to OCEMS Agency Policy and Procedure #460.00.
- B. Withdrawal from accreditation process.

Failure to submit proof of completing requirements identified in Section IV of this policy within thirty (30) days of initiation of the accreditation process will result in an automatic withdrawal of the applicant from the accreditation application process.

X. INTER-COUNTY  
TRANSPORT:

During an inter-county transfer or mutual aid, an individual who is accredited as an EMT-P in Orange County shall utilize the Orange County EMT-P scope of practice.